Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Although we are committed to equal opportunities for all persons, large numbers of school-age children are not being afforded equal educational opportunities because of learning disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, These disabilities, ranging from mild to severe, affect thousands of children in South Dakota alone and expert studies show the prevalence of learning disorders can range from three percent for severe problems to fifteen percent and more for disabilities of varying severity; and,

WHEREAS, The disorders, often accompanied by behavioral problems, prevent the children affected from achieving their full potential unless they are given special help; and,

WHEREAS, This barrier is doubly tragic, since ample experience has shown that these children, who have normal or above normal intelligence, can be helped to become self-supporting and contributing citizens of our society; and,

WHEREAS, Children thwarted by their educational experiences, however, can become dependent on social welfare and rehabilitative agencies for the rest of their lives, and the cost of maintaining a person over a lifetime can reach ten to twenty times the expense of providing the special help during the school years that can lead instead to a productive life; and,

WHEREAS, The State of South Dakota is responding to the problem, but the major effort must be waged at the local level. Parents, educators, school boards and other concerned individuals and groups must combine community resources if we are to meet this serious challenge fully:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 1980, as

CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens who consider children to be an irreplaceable asset to observe this month and support local learning disabilities programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Second Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty

William Janklow

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Alice Kundert

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE